

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037649

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

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O 161631Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. IF ASKED YOU SHOULD REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S  
DEPARTURE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q: WHY HAS THE AMBASSADOR LEFT COTONOU?

A: THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON  
FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Q: DOES THIS IMPLY THAT RELATIONS WITH BENIN ARE NOT GOOD?

A: RELATIONS WITH BENIN HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE LACK OF  
ANY CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARD COMPENSATION FOR TWO AMERICAN  
FIRMS WHOSE ASSETS WERE NATIONALIZED 14 MONTHS AGO. THIS  
DELAY HAS LED TO A REVIEW OF US AID TO BENIN. THIS REVIEW  
IS STILL UNDERWAY.

Q: WHAT AMERICAN COMPANIES?

A: TEXACO AND MOBIL.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THE AMBASSADOR BE GONE ON CONSULTATION?

A: WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME.

2. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC ARGUMENT  
WITH GPRB. THUS U.S. SPOKESMEN SHOULD NOT INITIATE ANY  
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PAGE 02 STATE 037649

DISCUSSION OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE

WITH JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING WASHINGTON POST REPORTER  
KAREN DE YOUNG NOW IN COTONOU) BUT SHOULD CORRECT ANY FALSE  
IMPRESSIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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